

## **LACDMH PARTICIPATES IN BURBANK AIRPORT STRIKE TEAM DISASTER EXERCISE**

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On Tuesday, March 24, 2015, The Los Angeles Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) participated in the Triennial Full Scale Emergency Exercise at the Bob Hope Airport with other departments and agencies.

The Emergency Outreach Bureau Disaster Services Unit deployed the department's Burbank Airport Strike Team to provide support and assistance to plane crash survivors and their families. Members of the team are composed of staff from various programs throughout the department. Some of the other participants in this exercise included the American Red Cross, Los Angeles City Mayor's Crisis Response Team, and various fire and police departments.

The exercise scenario involved an aircraft that dipped its right wing upon landing, causing the aircraft to land hard and clip another passenger plane heading to Phoenix. This leads to the departing aircraft spinning out of control and ending in the adjacent parking lot. The planes both incurred damage at impact and caused a post-crash fire.

This purpose of this exercise is to provide emergency responders an opportunity to work with other key airport and local emergency responders, and test how all agencies work together and organize a unified response to an airport emergency.